

[19 March, 2001]

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age income security in India. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government on 11.1.2000. The Government is considering the recommendations of the Committee and no final decision has been taken on it. However, this Ministry has been implementing schemes to provide relief through voluntary organizations for setting old age homes, day care centers, mobile medical units etc.

Special Satellite Channel for NER

***325. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) how far the special satellite channel for the North-East inaugurated on December 27, 2000, at Guwahati can cover the North-East region;

(b) what arrangements have been made for the viewers to cover the different scheduled and major Indian languages spoken in this region;

(c) whether the Cable Television Regulation Act, 1998 has been extended to this region; and

(d) the details of the high power transmitters equipped in each State Capital of the region?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Being a satellite channel, the North-East Channel can be viewed all over the country including the North-Eastern Region, via dish antennae or cable networks.

(b) Prasar Bharti has informed that in addition to programmes in Hindi and English, programmes are telecast in nine different languages/dialects, out of which Assamese, Manipuri and Bengali are major Indian languages in the region.

(c) The Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 is applicable to the entire country, including the North-Eastern region.

(d) While Guwahati and Agartala have High Power Transmitters for both DD-1 and DD-2, all the other state capitals in

the region have High Power Transmitters for relay of DD-1 programmes. These capitals have Low Power Transmitters for DD-2 relay.

TV/AIR Package for NE

***326. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would announce a new package for the North-East to counter the propaganda war by neighbouring countries like China, Myanmar and Bangladesh;

(b) whether the new package would cover the television as well as radio network;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) The Government is already giving special attention the coverage of North-Eastern Region by AIR and DD. The AIR is implementing 18 projects in the North-Eastern Region under its Plan programme. DD is implementing projects for 9 transmitters and 2 transposers for DD-1 in the NER, under its Plan programme. These projects are aimed at increasing the coverage, strengthening the network and increasing utilization of local talent in programmes. A 24-hour NE channel is in operation. A sum of Rs. 4.2 crores has recently been released for software development. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to upgrade, enlarge and expand the package of programmes for the North-East for AIR and DD.

Posts Lying vacant in the Grade of Translators etc.

***327. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:** Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Hindi Translators/Hindi Officers/ Assistants created in his Department and allied PSUs/Attached and Subordinate Offices for propogation of Hindi as Official Language and encouragement of Hindi correspondence;